



Angélica Infante-Green
Commissioner

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Enclosure 5c6
May 14, 2019

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TO: Council on Elementary and Secondary Education

FROM: Angélica Infante-Green, Commissioner *a. Infante*

SUBJECT: Approval of Necessity of School Construction: Westerly

The Council on Elementary and Secondary Education has as one of its responsibilities reviewing and certifying the need for school construction projects to be reimbursed through the school housing aid program and the SBA Capital Fund. Most large projects are supported by bonds and are comprehensive projects with major renovation and/or new construction components. Article 9 of the FY16 State Budget lifted the moratorium on school construction, created the School Building Authority (SBA) at the RI Department of Education, created the SBA Capital Fund, and changed the multi-stage Necessity of School Construction application to an annual process. Because of this, the Council will be asked to review and approve projects annually at the end of each fiscal year.

At this meeting, the Council is being asked to approve Necessity of School Construction applications. A chart summarizing Westerly School District’s projects is provided in Attachment 1.

RECOMMENDATION: THAT, the Council on Elementary and Secondary Education approve the necessity of school construction projects for the Westerly Public Schools totaling \$74,284,759 pursuant to 16-7-41.1 as follows (please note that when the applicable reimbursement share ratios are applied to the estimated total project costs noted below, the state share is expected to be \$25,999,666, which includes \$5,454,081 in pay-as-you-go funding):

Westerly:

a. Districtwide Repairs:

i.	Dunn’s Corner School	\$ 13,544,489
ii.	Springbrook Elementary School	\$ 7,081,444
iii.	State Street Elementary School	\$ 37,323,668
iv.	Tower Street School	\$ 29,849
v.	Westerly Middle School	\$ 219,250
vi.	Westerly High School	\$ 13,880,571
vii.	Districtwide Security Repairs	\$ 2,205,488

SUMMARY: FY 2019 NECESSITY OF CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS

WESTERLY SCHOOL DISTRICT	BRIEF DESCRIPTION	JUSTIFICATION	FY 2019 AID SHARE RATIO*	ESTIMATED PROJECT COST	STATE SHARE	STATE SHARE W/ INTEREST**
New Construction, Repairs, and Renovations	<p>This project includes the construction of a new Upper Elementary School for 540 students at the State Street School site.</p> <p>Additions and renovations at Dunn's Corner Elementary and Springbrook Elementary are also part of a districtwide masterplan consolidation.</p> <p>This masterplan will also address repairs at the other Westerly school facilities.</p>	<p>This project is part of a masterplan that addresses high priority facility deficiencies while making educational program improvements. This includes the construction of a new Upper Elementary School, and renovations and additions to two existing schools to create Lower Elementary Schools. This project also includes districtwide health and safety improvements, including: HVAC repairs; roof replacements, hazardous materials abatement, fire alarm and safety improvements, interior renovations, and other building system improvements that affect student and staff health and safety.</p>	Base Rate 35%	\$74,284,759	\$25,999,666	\$36,360,540
			Maximum Rate 52.5%***	\$74,284,759	\$38,999,499	\$54,540,810

* State share ratio is based on FY2020 calculation.

** Only bonds financed through RIHEBC are eligible for reimbursement on interest.

*** District may be eligible for up to 17.5% additional reimbursement, pursuant to RIGL 16-7-40.